Mr. T. P. Poulose (*Kanayannur*): I second it.

The motion was put and carried.

The Cochin Usurious Loans Act Amendment Bill.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce the Cochin Usurious Loans Act Amendment Bill.

Mr. K. Ashtamoorthi Nambudiripad (*Land-holders*): I second it.

The motion was put and carried.

14. Prohibition of free Importation of Uncouponed Burma rubber into India.—(*cont*)

In supporting this resolution I have no intention of criticising the action already taken by Government nor of showing ingratitude for the assistance they have already given to the rubber producers of the State.

In the ordinary way we should have been content to await the results of the representations made to the Government of India by the Indian Rubber Licensing Committee. That Committee is a thoroughly representative one and carries the confidence of the producers. Unfortunately, being an official Committee, their proceedings are confidential and they can only release information when authorised by the Government of India. We have waited very patiently to hear that justice had been done to India in the matter of the import of rubber from Burma not covered by export licenses.

As no information has been forthcoming, we feel the time has now arrived when the support of our Government is urgently required to bring to the notice of the Government of India the extent of the handicap imposed on the Indian producer and the need to take immediate action to prohibit these unlicensed imports from the same date as the new Restriction Agreement is brought into force from the 1st January, 1939. The main principle of the agreement is the restriction of export of rubber to that covered by its export allotment. Why therefore should this principle be violated for the benefit of Indians and to the detriment of the Indian rubber growers?

We were told earlier that there were difficulties owing to the Trade Agreement between India and Burma which had still some time to run. There are however full provisions in this Agreement to cover our case, and in the exactly parallel case of tea, import from Burma has already been prohibited unless

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